

## BEST OF THE YEAR

Mr. Slayton's Exhibit to the Farmers' Club.

## POTATOES AND GOOD ROADS

Discussed at Length—Mr. Slayton's Trial on Seed Potatoes—S. S. Bailey's Ideas of Good Roads.

Secretary Slayton of the Farmers' club had a display of vegetables on a table in the center of the club room yesterday which was a revelation to many of those present. First, a huge pumpkin two feet and four inches long and large enough around to weigh sixty-two pounds, claimed the attention of all that entered. A Hubbard squash weighing 24 pounds was very much admired. A half dozen plates of sweet potatoes weighing from one-half pound to three and one-half pounds each were on dress parade and many expressed surprise that such fine specimens could be grown here. Mr. Slayton says he has grown them since he came home from the war and has raised as high as forty bushels in one year. He also exhibited some fine sugar beets, a sample of which he sent to Washington and was informed that they yielded 15 per cent. of sugar. He estimates that he can raise twenty tons to the acre, which would produce 6,000 pounds of sugar. Mr. Slayton received his seeds from the agricultural department in Washington.

Mr. Smith was chosen chairman for the day, the president and vice-president being absent. Secretary Slayton read the following paper on his experience in raising potatoes in the past year.

## Potato Trial.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF KENT.

Hills two feet apart in rows three feet asunder, medium size potatoes; rows two potatoes in each hill, rows one in a hill, rows one-half potato in each hill, flat side down, and rows with flat side up and rows with two halves in each hill vs. rows with one-fourth potato, one-eighth and one-sixteenth in each hill, and rows with hills sixteen inches apart, rows with oval shaped seed and rows with dumb-bell shaped seed, et al.

May 20, 1892, case called. Plaintiffs and defendants all appear, join issue and enter into the customary bonds, being covered by Sheriff Hoe four inches deep; then adjourned suit for one month.

June 20, 1892. It seems that all the parties to this suit have had rather too much to drink during the past month and greatly to their detriment, however, the rows with halves flat down put in the first appearance, the whole came next, then the halves with flat up; then came the fourths, eighths and sixteenths in turn, tottering feebly after. Plaintiffs asked for adjournment one week. Granted.

July 20, less of drinking and more of genial sunshine has much improved the looks of all the contestants. It is plain that the evidence of the halves flat down is more compact and upright, while that of flat up and of the whole ones is more scattered and uneven. The fourths, eighths and sixteenths offer less of evidence in their order; but it is strong and to the point and seems to be gaining in favor. Defendants request a month's adjournment, granted.

## Contest of Winning.

August 20, all the contestants in this case now seem equally confident of winning. The fractional parties, at first slow to appear, have brought forward much substantial testimony of late, and it will require a careful consideration of all the points involved in order to give a decision. As to the whole ones, they are more numerous, just to the higgles and fully protect the public good. Material witnesses being out of sight the case is, by mutual consent, further postponed for fifty days; and Sheriff Hoe and his deputy, Hook, were instructed by the court to have all the parties and their witnesses present punctually at the appointed time.

October 10, 1892, in the supreme court of experience in and for said county and state. In the case above recited, its appearing by the affidavits of Sheriff Hoe, that all the parties have fared exactly alike as regards food and drink, and moral and physical cultivation; and, being much inclined to keep foul company, were thoroughly dressed out by him in person three distinct and separate times; and it further appearing that Father Purple of London at four different convocations has granted full absolution from all striped ones to each party alike, it is ordered that the trial do now proceed to a conclusion.

The Arguments. Attorney Workforpy remarked that his clients, the whole ones and halves, were the first to appear in court, also the first to change their garb from green to brown; thus maturing two or three weeks the earliest, which fact most certainly give the plaintiffs their case.

Attorney Noyoudont sprang to his feet, exclaiming: "The early bird catches the bug," which thing is what we defendants do not want. Again, "Soon ripe, soon rotten." That we do not want. But it is potatoes we are after, not potatoes for the pig, but good, "cookable," edible potatoes for the table—the most we can get for the least land and labor."

Judge Scales charged the testimony be taken. Clerk Slate and Pencil administered the oath to each party separately. Two whole ones in a hill declared that they produced 129 bushels per acre, 32 1/2 per cent being merchantable. One whole one in hill stated that they yielded 177 bushels per acre, 91 7/10 per cent being merchantable.

Two halves in a hill asserted that they gave 121 3/10 bushels, 43 8/10 per cent of which were merchantable. One half in hill, flat down, averred that he turned out 122 8/10 bushels, 52 6/10 per cent being merchantable.

One half in hill, flat up, affirmed that he gathered 123 2/10 bushels, 91 7/10 of which were of good repute.

One-fourth in hill made it appear that he gave 129 7/10 bushels, 91 4/10 per cent being merchantable. One-eighth in hill gave evidence that he caused 129 7/10 bushels to be dug from one acre, 93 9/10 per cent being merchantable.

One-sixteenth in hill admitted that he was responsible for only 136 2/10 bushels on his acre; but he boasted that 95 4/10 per cent surpassed all the others in goodness and grace.

One-half in hills sixteen inches apart claimed 127 6/10 bushels per acre, 53 per cent being constitutional. Judge Scales charged the jury as follows:

"GENTLEMEN—You are called upon to decide most momentous questions, questions which involve the full or empty pocket and stomach of half of the human race—and part of the pigs. For two centuries people of every color and creed and of all nationalities have wrangled over the question of the reproduction of solanum, tuberosum; and should you, in viewing the evidence here before you, succeed in settling one vexing point in the potato controversy, you will have contributed much to the peace and fullness of mankind. Your finding is not to be influenced by the loss of your grand aires, who killed their hogs in the new of the moon, that their pork might swell in the pot while boiling, and planted their potatoes in the old of the moon that there might be few small ones at digging. Nor yet are you to be biased by your reading in ancient mythology of those semi-barbaric tribes, who tied a horse shoe to the churn to cause the butter to come quickly, or hung one over the door to bring good luck.

The Verdict. The verdict of the jury is, since that which is good is only desirable, we have eliminated the bad and find— First, that two whole ones to each hill gave 174 bushels per acre, one whole one gave 163 bushels, one-eighth potato in each hill gave 129 bushels, one-fourth gave 125 bushels, one-half, flat down, gave 120 and six-tenths; one-half, flat up, gave 149 and six-tenths; one-sixteenth in hill gave 129 and nine-tenths bushels.

Second, that with halves planted flat down or flat up there is no difference in weight, but for bending the back one to turn it over.

Third, that while two whole ones in a hill gave eleven bushels more than one did, two halves in a hill gave eighteen bushels less than one-half in a hill gave.

Fourth, that one whole one or one half one in a hill gave 3 per cent of poor potatoes, while two whole ones gave 12 per cent, and two halves gave 18 per cent, quarters gave 8 per cent, eighths gave 6 per cent and sixteenths gave 4 per cent of poor ones.

Fifth, that in distance halves, 24 inches apart gave 130 bushels per acre of good ones with 8 per cent of poor, while halves 16 inches apart gave only 142 bushels of good ones with 15 per cent of poor.

Sixth, that shape is of little consequence, as a row planted with all oval potatoes gave 4 per cent of dumb bell shape, while a row planted with all of the last shape gave only 6 per cent of the same.

Seventh, that the more the potatoes are cut in planting the less the ratio of small ones, and the greater the ratio of ill-shaped, knobby ones; as whole ones gave 12 per cent, halves gave 22 per cent, quarters gave 29 per cent, eighths gave 42 per cent, and sixteenths gave 36 per cent of hump.

A Plan for Good Roads. S. S. Bailey read a paper in which he attributed the victory of the democratic party to the fact that the party placed a plank in the platform favoring the improvement of roads. He said \$50,000 was raised in Kent county to improve the roads, but everyone knows the money was not judiciously expended. Not more than \$400,000 would be needed to build first class roads in the county from the city to the points named below: To Alpine, Englishville, Sparta, Kent City and Casnovia, Indian Creek, Pleasant, Lisbon, Belmont, Childs Mills, Rockford, Edgerton, Cedar Springs, Grand Haven, Sand Lake, branches to Plainfield, Cannonburg, Grattan, Courtland, Oakfield Center, Spencer Mills, Ada, Lowell, Fallsville, Alta, Bowne, Cascade, Whitneyville, McCords, East Paris, Dutton, Caledonia, Alaska, Fisher, Corinth, Paris town, Grand Center, Egypt, Cascade Lake and a branch from Ada to Cascade Springs. This would make 250 miles of road in the county. Better roads could be made for \$1,500 per mile than most of the toll roads. If the county were bonded for \$500,000 the yearly interest would be but \$20,000, only two-fifths of what is now raised for roads. Where toll roads exist he would buy them. He hoped to have a little taste of good roads before he was called to the place where all the streets are paved with gold.

Contagious Diseases. Berend Sunkelburg, age 4 years, No. 89 Chatham street, diphtheria; Jacobus DeMeister, age 7 years, No. 364 Crosby street, diphtheria; Louis Baker, age 8 years, No. 157 Highland avenue, scarlet fever.

Burial Permits. Diens Raman, age 46 years, No. 23 Gelson alley, Peter Malsen, age 71 years, No. 81 Caledonia street.

Marriage Licenses. The following is a list of the marriage licenses issued since last publication, with the names, residences (when out of the city), and ages of the parties. Age. Albert C. Stauder, Bowne, Mary A. Decker, Caledonia. James W. Snyder, Fannie E. Hancock, 26-30 Elmer P. Lewis, 28. Cynthia S. Sayles, Lowell. 28-27

A Canal Reopened. Health is largely dependent upon a regular habit of body. The bowels act as an important canal for the carrying of waste matter of the system. They, together with the kidneys and lungs, are outlets for debris whose presence is fatal to the body's well-being. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is no violent purgative, but a gentle laxative admirably adapted to the wants of the constipated. It never grips and weakens the latencies as all drastic cathartics do, but produces an action akin to that of an effort of nature. Billions of individuals with their associate manifestations, nervousness, are speedily and completely remedied by this fine corrective, which also cures malarial, sick headache, kidney and rheumatic trouble, and checks premature decay.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

PECK'S DRUG STORE,

Corner Monroe and Division Streets.

W. F. SHATTUCK & CO.,

26 South Division Street,

Upholsterers & Furniture Repairing

The best of work at the lowest figures.

Telephone 1228 for W. F. Shattuck & Co.'s moving van.

Strahan & Greulich

ALWAYS THE CHEAPEST.

Jacob Meyers

wishes to announce that he has reopened his

LAKE ROAD LIVERY!

AT 251 LAKE AVE.,

First class rigs can be had at a moment's notice or by calling or telegraphing—day.

Also for Sale Harnesses, Carts, Buggies, etc.

Or will exchange for anything in my line.

Also handles flour, feed, hay, straw, etc.

SPROUL & MCGURRIN.

Plumbing, Steam and Hot Water Heating

HOT AIR FURNACES.

MANTELS, GRATES AND TILING, GAS AND ELECTRIC FIXTURES

ETC., ETC., ETC.

Patented Hose and other brands. Water and Sewer Connections.

Tension Filters which kill all microbes and germs and make water absolutely pure. Douglas' Instantaneous Water Heater, designed for Baths.

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Plumbers' Supplies.

184 East Fulton St. (Telephone 147) Grand Rapids, Mich

65 MONROE STREET,

Gold Crowns and Bridge Work!

ROBINSON DENTAL CO.

MAKE THE

Best Gold Fillings in the City.

40 MONROE STREET.

HARCOURT PLACE SEMINARY.

Grand Rapids, Mich.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.

Kenyon Military Academy.